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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,808	01/13/2004	Keith Vivian Alexander	0074-497815	1507

110 7590 05/20/2005

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

MATHEW, FENN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

58

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/756,808

Applicant(s)

ALEXANDER, KEITH VIVIAN

Examiner

Fenn C Mathew

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

JEROME W. DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander (U.S. 6,319,174) in view of Ying (U.S. 6,237,169). Alexander teaches a trampoline comprising a flexible mat (2), a base frame (3), a plurality of flexible rods having an upper end retained in the flexible mat, and a plurality of tube holders on the frame. Absent criticality or specific purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to place the tube holders at least partially within the base frame, since it appears that it serves no specific purpose nor provides any inherent advantage, and the prior art would perform equally well absent unexpected or undesired results. Alexander fails to specifically teach the base frame being made up a plurality of interconnectable base section wherein adjacent base sections are coupled by an extending tongue provided with a slot. Ying teaches an analogous device including a the base frame being made up a plurality of interconnectable base sections wherein adjacent base sections are coupled by an extending tongue provided with a slot, teaching that it is desirable in order to provide portability for a trampoline. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have the base frame of Alexander made up of a plurality of interconnectable base sections

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wherein adjacent base sections are coupled by an extending tongue provided with a slot in order to enhance the portability of the device. Furthermore, with respect to claims 5-6, 11-12, the specific cross-sectional shape of the frame would be a matter of obvious design choice, as it is well known in the trampoline art to have trampoline frames having either round or square cross-section, and they could be interchanged absent unexpected or undesired results.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

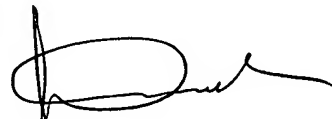
Krantz U.S. 4,880,226

Stanley, Jr. U.S. 4,836,530

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fenn C Mathew whose telephone number is (571) 272-4978. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

JEROME W. DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jcm

fcm

May 17, 2005

JEROME W. DONNELLY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Donnelly', written over a horizontal line.